

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* David M. & Anna Marie Bailey, PO Box 910, Marion, MT 59925
2. *Type of action:* Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 30024588-76L
3. *Water source name:* Little Bitterroot Lake
4. *Location affected by action:* SE of section 16, T 27N, R 24W, Flathead County
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*  
The DNRC shall issue a Water Use Permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA are met. The applicants are seeking a water use permit for the domestic water presently being used in their home. Their system pumps water from Little Bitterroot Lake at a rate of 6 gpm with an annual volume of up to 1 acre-foot. A well was drilled on the property but the water is unfit for domestic uses, however, it is utilized for lawn watering purposes.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*  
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) MT FW & P website, MT Natural Heritage Program, MT DEQ and the State Historic Preservation Office

**Part II. Environmental Review**

**1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

*Determination: No, the source is not listed by DFWP.*

**Water quality** - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

*Determination: No known impact.*

**Groundwater** - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

*Determination: NA*

**DIVERSION WORKS** - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

*Determination: This system is installed and functional. There is no need for additional construction.*

**UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

*Determination: Little Bitterroot Lake is prime habitat for the Common Loon and Bald Eagles from time to time. And the Lynx and Grey Wolves may pass through the area on occasion. This project has created no barriers to these species that would impact their movements. Since this home was built in the 40's, any impacts to the other species have already been realized.*

**Wetlands** - Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

*Determination: N.A.*

**Ponds** - For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

*Determination: N.A.*

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

*Determination: N.A.*

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

*Determination:* No changes.

**AIR QUALITY** - Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

*Determination:* N.A.

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

*Determination:* No historic sites were identified by the MT Historical Society.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water, and energy not already addressed.

*Determination:* No changes.

## **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

*Determination:* No changes. The home is already built.

**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

*Determination:* No impacts.

**HUMAN HEALTH** - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

*Determination:* No changes

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes\_\_\_ No\_X\_. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

*Determination:*

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

*Impacts on:*

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? No changes.
  - (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? No changes.
  - (c) Existing land uses? No changes.
  - (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No changes.
  - (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No changes.
  - (f) Demands for government services? No changes.
  - (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No changes.
  - (h) Utilities? No changes.
  - (i) Transportation? No changes.
  - (j) Safety? No changes.
  - (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None identified.
2. ***Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*** At some time in the future, developments such as this may have secondary or cumulative impacts on this area. At this time, no one knows when that will happen.
3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** Since this project utilizes such a small amount of water, none were pursued.
4. ***Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** Since this system has been operational for some time, no other alternatives were considered.

### **PART III. Conclusion**

*Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No.*

*If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: Because no significant impacts were identified by this EA, it is the appropriate level of analysis for this action.*

*Name of person responsible for preparation of EA:*

*Name:* Wes McAlpin

*Title:* Water Resources Specialist, Kalispell RO

*Date:* December 8, 2006